

WHISPERS

WHISPERING HEIGHTS & COLLINGWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

VOL 11 ISSUE 1

LOCAL TRAFFIC

Your Board of Directors has been monitoring several areas that may have an impact on traffic in and around our neighborhood.

Safety and Flow

We have been in written and oral discussions with City representatives with regard to increased traffic and reduced speeds on SE 46th Way. Several approaches to the problem were discussed, including speed bumps, automatic speed monitors, signage (Children Present-Slow: Residential Area: No Thru Traffic), pedestrian over/underpass to Collingwood Park, more traffic calming bumpouts. At the moment, none of these pass muster. However, the City plans to conduct a survey to determine if there is an inordinate amount of 'shortcut' traffic during the rush hours between 150th and 164th instead of the hoped for heavier traffic use of Lakemont.

Factoria Development

Another activity which might have a secondary effect —ease of access to the Factoria area — is a proposal before the City Council to change the zoning restrictions at Factoria. The changes would increase the height restrictions from 45 to 75 feet (not of immediate impact on us) and allow the building of 550-620 low cost apartment units locate both at the north and south end of the present shopping area. The conventional sales pitch is that this will NOT impact traffic because most of the apartment dwellers will work in the immediate Factoria area. However, it appears that the apartments will rent for about \$1200/mon (hardly low cost) and an annual salary of about \$60,000 would be necessary to afford such rent. Will workers at Factoria really be able to afford to live there? Will the renters really be more commuters? Will the traffic get worse than at present? Stay tuned on this one!

More Factoria Development

And finally, there is a long range study by the City to look at the I-90 traffic between Issaquah and Factoria within primarily the first 4-5 blocks on both the north and south side of I-90 and, secondarily, the belt around this corridor. The study will consider what conditions might be in 2020 and 2050 and what should be planned for the near and far future. Rerouting some local streets? Additional traffic control? Another freeway access ramp at, say, 142nd?

The WHCCA Board will try and track all these activities and keep you informed.

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE FOR 2002 ANNOUNCED

Newsletter captains Lin Sanford and Carolyn Knise have released newsletter distribution dates for 2002. Distributors can expect delivery of their route copies by the first day of the following delivery timeframes:

Vol. 11, Issue 1: Feb. 4-10
Vol. 11, Issue 3: June 3-9
Vol. 11, Issue 5: Oct. 21-27
Vol. 11, Issue 2: April 8-14
Vol. 11, Issue 4: Aug. 1-8

These dates have been selected with an eye to time sensitive events that WHCCA neighbors will want to know about. If you find that you will be unable to deliver within these times, due to a vacation or other absence, please make arrangements with a friend or a neighbor to help you out

that month. As a last resort, call your Captain rather than have the newsletters go undelivered. Thanks, newsletter deliverers, for your ongoing service!

BLOCK CAPTAINS/EMERGENCY PLANNING

The Block Captains will be conducting our annual update to the WHCCA Resident List and to the Emergency Plan over the February/March time frame.

Please welcome them and if you haven't volunteered for an emergency/disaster response team position, please do so now!

Each block needs people for communications, damage assessment, first aid, safety and security, search and rescue, and sheltering & special needs.

The commitment is not burdensome. A few notes in the newsletter from time to time, a briefing by the Fire Department, Red Cross, or other source once a year. But if there is a disaster, we will all be ready to assist . . . in some important way. Volunteer! Volunteer!

MEMO:

LET'S START THE NEW YEAR OUT RIGHT, HONEY. LET'S PAY OUR WH&CCA DUES EARLY. CAN WE DO \$20 THIS YEAR TO COVER FIXING THE MAIL BOXES?

NEW PLAYGROUP

A new neighborhood Play-group has formed! This is a no-fee playgroup for children 5 months to preschool age; parents simply take turns hosting a play date! For more information about the playgroup, call Cathy Springman at 425-562-0529.

Or, go to a brand new web site devoted to the playgroup. The WH&CCA web site, www.whcca.com, has added a new hyperlink to the "Neighborhood Playgroup of Whispering Heights / Collingwood / Horizon Crest / Horizon Heights" website (<http://www.seanet.com/~msun/Playgroup>).

This site offers contact information for those interested in meeting other moms and dads in the greater Somerset area and providing their children with a regular opportunity to play with their neighborhood peers. For website inquiries, call Karen Sunada at 425-643-9168.

UPDATE: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Emergency Plan/ Shelter Operations

In last month's issue, Emergency Preparedness Education Coordinator JoAnn Jordan passed on encouragement from the Bellevue Fire Department to continue to organize our neighborhoods for any disaster.

Since then, the Red Cross, in conjunction with the Bellevue Fire Department and the Parks Department provided a full day course on the operations of an emergency shelter operation. The shelter operations should be of interest to all WHCCA residents in the case of a local disaster. Between the City of Bellevue and Red Cross existing coordinated capabilities and plans, they can handle disasters effecting from a single family to hundreds of individuals.

The City, through the Parks Department, maintains four designated emergency centers, complete with an extensive emergency supply inventory. These are located at Highland, Crossroads, North Senior Center, and Clyde Hill. In addition, there are current working agreements with many other sites, such as schools, churches, YMCA, and athletic clubs which would supplement the four primary centers as the need might arise.

If a disaster should occur, local centers would normally be opened by City personnel and a seamless hand over to the Red Cross would occur depending upon the nature and severity of the disaster. In summary, there is a flexible and responsive disaster response capability in being,

coordinated among the City and the Red Cross. Another reason that Bellevue is a very fine place to live!

Remember, if you are not familiar with your neighborhood plan, or want more information about the plan, contact Wally Larson or one of the Neighborhood Captains in your Association.

If you would like more basic information on preparing for disasters, including starting a disaster supplies kit and creating a family disaster plan, call 425-452-7923 and information can be mailed to you. If you have access to the Internet, the American Red Cross has created an excellent web page entitled "Terrorism, Preparing for the Unexpected".

That web address is: <http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/keepsafe/unexpected.html>

Preparedness is Empowering. Take action now! "*You can be frightened—or you can be prepared.*"

CONTEMPLATING WHETHER YOU FEEL ANY DUTY TO CONTRIBUTE TIME OR MONEY TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD? SUBMITTED FOR YOUR EVALUATION:

Benevolence is a duty; and he who frequently practices it and sees his benevolent intentions realized, at length comes to love him to whom he has done good. — KANT

NEIGHBORHOOD ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Your Vote Counts! (Remember the last Presidential Election?)

Recently, you may have received a mailing regarding the Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP). This program has earmarked funds for specific projects that homeowner associations and the general population of Eastgate/Cougar Ridge communities submitted for consideration. The city has allocated \$195,000 towards the NEP. There are eight projects that will be listed on the ballots but not all of the projects will directly benefit Whispering Heights and Collingwood. It is up to all of us to make our votes count to help ensure the projects that will enhance our neighborhoods are chosen.

In March, ballots will be mailed to each individual homeowner to vote on the top projects of your choice.

As a homeowner's association, Whispering Heights and Collingwood Community Association (WHCCA), we submitted several requests for the NEP — two of the requests WHCC submitted will be on the March ballot! Considering there are only eight potential projects on the ballot, as an association, we feel we have had a strong voice thus far!

These projects will directly impact and benefit our neighborhoods.

The two requests on the ballot are as follows:

- (1) an interim asphalt walkway on 164th Ave. SE north of Lakemont Blvd.
- (2) sidewalk on 150th Ave. SE south of SE 46th Way.

If these two projects are voted in by the majority, the improvements will not only add an important safety benefit to the neighborhood but will also add value to our homes and the surrounding area. We should all be concerned about the value of our investments and the safety benefits for our families.

If you have any questions regarding these two specific projects or any of the others, you can contact Tim Stever at the City of Bellevue (425) 452-4075. You may also contact any of the WHCC board members.

On behalf of the board and WHCC homeowners, we strongly encourage everyone to help improve our neighborhoods and submit your March ballot – your neighbors depend on you!

HIGH-SPEED INTERNET

Ya' Done Good.

Last issue we told you how you can request extension of high-speed Internet connections from AT&T.

David Kerr, Franchising & Transportation for the City of Bellevue, answered our call for a status report quickly and professionally. He reported that several additional streets in Whispering Heights and Collingwood have had high-speed capability established and are currently are being "swept and tested" prior to the service being made available (that means they're working out the bugs).

For those who are want to check availability or request the service, here's a reminder of how to do that online:

[1] Go to <http://www.att.com>

[2] Select "Broadband" from the four interest areas

[3] Select "Check Availability"

[4] At the prompt, confirm your full address including the 4-digit extension to zipcode

[5] If search results in "Service Unavailable" check "Notify me when available" and provide complete data when prompted.